

**Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Spokane BLM District, Spokane, WA
Spokane District Office - July 22, 2002**

Members Present (interest/term expiration):

Sub-Group 1

Andrew Berg (Energy & Minerals/2002)
Dave Billingsley (Grazing/2004)
Harold Mathews (Rights-of-Way/2002)
Steven Tveit (Timber/2004)
Maurice Williamson (Commercial Recreation/2002)

Sub-Group 2

Al Cunningham (Environmental/2004)
Linda Harder (Dispersed Recreation/2003)
Steven McKinney (Conservation/2004)
Mike Petersen (Environmental/2002)

Sub-Group 3

James Dobrowolski (Academician/2004)
Bill Graedel (Elected Official/2003)
Linda North-Spaulding (Public at Large/2003)
Doug Pineo (State Government/2003)

Members Not In Attendance:

Sub-Group 2: Mark Amara (Archaeological/Historical/2002)

Sub-Group 3: JoAnna Meninick (Indian Tribe/2003)

Others in Attendance

Designated Federal Official: Joseph K. Buesing, Spokane District Manager, BLM

Federal Officials:

Kim Dayot, Computer Specialist, Spokane District BLM
Kevin Devitt, Field Manager, Border Resource Area, BLM
Jim Fisher, Field Manager, Wenatchee Resource Area, BLM
Kathy Helm, Planner & Environmental Coordinator, Spokane District, BLM

Guests:

Shelly Short, Aide to Congressman Nethercutt
Hal Rowe, Conservation Director, Kettle Range Conservation Group
Travis Young, Wash. State University

Meeting Recorder:

Kathy Helm

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Billingsley. RAC members and others in attendance introduced themselves. A quorum of RAC members was established.

Joe Buesing, Spokane District Manager and Designated Federal Official, made introductory comments and gave a brief district update.

Joe Buesing discussed the five EWRAC positions which expire in September 2002, the call for nominations, and the nomination review process. The five positions and their respective groups are as follows:

- Andy Berg - Energy & Minerals
- Harold Mathews - Right-of-Way
- Maurice Williamson - Commercial Recreation
- Mark Amara - Archaeological/Historical
- Mike Petersen - Environmental

Joe Buesing briefed the RAC on OR/WA State Director Elaine Zielinski transferring to the Arizona State Director position and the expected reporting date of her replacement, Elaine Marquis-Brong, within the first two weeks of August. He also said there was a possibility that BLM Director Kathleen Clark and the new OR/WA State Director would visit the Spokane District near the end of August.

Andy Berg distributed a proposed resolution for RAC consideration, to be discussed at the next RAC meeting (see attached).

Meeting notes of the May 24, 2001 and March 21, 2002 meetings were officially approved as written, without changes.

Old Business

Kevin Devitt gave an update on the status of the Juniper Dunes access issue. The appraisal is done on the subject parcel and negotiations are proceeding. Since acquisition of the subject parcel would not resolve all access issues in the Juniper Dunes area, Bill Graedel suggested reviewing the RCW rules for their applicability of roads used for recreational purposes. Harold Mathews agreed to take up the suggestion.

Jim Fisher, Wenatchee Field Manager, gave an update on the Moses Coulee/Douglas Creek land exchange proposal being processed with Land Conservation & Water Funds.

There was a question about changing the RAC boundaries, which had been discussed in past meetings. Joe Buesing said the RAC boundary was not likely to be changed. There was no further discussion.

New Business

Proposed Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Land Exchange

BLM showed a powerpoint presentation about the Proposed Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Land Exchange. Joe Buesing explained actions taken to date on the proposed land exchange, including contacts/briefings by himself and/or Kevin Devitt to legislators, affected counties, and tribes

(Spokane, Colville, and Yakama). Formal consultation has been initiated with the Spokane, Colville, Yakama, Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes. Contacts have also been made with staff of Senator Bob Morton and Representative Cathy McMorris, both of the 7th District. The official comment period on the Notice of Exchange Proposal ends August 1; about 17 comments had been received.

Mike Petersen commented that the public and adjacent landowners might want to purchase the subject public lands through competitive land sales.

At 10:00 a.m., the RAC chair gave the members a short recess, then resumed the meeting at 10:15 a.m. to invite public comment.

Hal Rowe, representing Kettle Range Conservation Group and also himself as an adjacent landowner to parcel #11, read and also provided for the meeting record five comment letters he received about the proposed Columbia Basin Shrub-Steppe Land Exchange. Mr. Rowe also distributed a Seattle Times newspaper article (dated 1998) about land exchanges in general. In addition, Mr. Rowe provided comments, both orally and in writing, on behalf of the Kettle Range Conservation Group. Some of Mr. Rowe's comments were about the proposed exchange, while others alluded to a past exchange. Some discussion amongst RAC members and with Mr. Rowe occurred following Mr. Rowe's presentation, as a means of clarifying points and attempting to validate information received from him.

Joe Buesing briefed the RAC and Mr. Rowe about the process undertaken on a previous land exchange as a point of clarification.

Subgroup: Maurice Williamson suggested that the RAC members become more informed of the land exchange process prior to taking a position and making a formal recommendation to BLM. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by consensus vote of the RAC members to form a Land Exchange Subcommittee with a two-fold mandate:

- (1) Clarify, summarize, and report to the RAC on land exchanges.
- (2) Categorize the level and types of public involvement to recommend to RAC.

The subgroup will be comprised of five members (Andy Berg and Maurice Williamson - Group 1; Mike Petersen - Group 2; Linda North-Spaulding and James Dobrowolski - Group 3).

Maurice Williamson discussed a potential conflict of interest on his part. The RAC agreed no conflict of interest existed.

Members of the subgroup will be reimbursed travel and per diem to attend subgroup meetings. The subgroup will meet at the call of the DFO and report to the RAC at each meeting.

Cooperative Watershed: Travis Young (Coordinator, Collaborative Resource Management Assistance Program, Washington State University Extension Service) gave a powerpoint presentation about the benefits of coordinated resource management, which include assistance with locating resources, coordinating technical assistance, locating funding, and facilitation. Mr. Young provided a printout of his presentation for the meeting record.

Additional Discussion, Including Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 27. One agenda item at the next meeting will be setting of ground rules, for RAC and BLM staff, during public input time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Officially Approved: November 20, 2002

[Note: September 27 meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum.]